

REMARKS

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 10-11 and 13-14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The applicant has amended independent claim 1 so that it incorporates the subject matter of deemed allowable dependent claim 10. Accordingly it is submitted that independent claim 1 as amended is now directed to allowable subject matter. Furthermore, it is submitted that the dependent claims that follow and depend upon amended claim 1 are also now allowable because they depend directly or indirectly from an allowable independent claim.

Dependent claim 13 was also deemed allowable. Dependent claim 13 was tied to dependent claims 12, 7, 2 and 1. The applicant has asserted a new claim 19 which is based upon independent claim 1, coupled with the limitations of dependent claims 2, 7, 12 and 13. Since the Examiner considered that dependent claim 13 was allowable, it is submitted that new independent claim 19 is also allowable since it incorporates the subject matter of dependent claim 13 together with any intervening dependent claims.

Finally, dependent claim 14 was deemed allowable. Dependent claim 14 was tied to dependent claims 3, 2 and 1. The applicant has asserted a further independent claim as claim 20. New independent claim 20 is based upon allowable claim 14 and includes the subject matter of dependent claims 3, 2 and 1. Since new independent claim 20 is based upon allowable dependent claim 14, and incorporates the subject matter of intervening dependent claims, it is submitted that new independent claim 20 is also allowable.

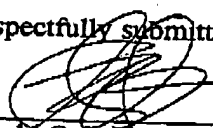
Favorable action on this amended application is respectfully solicited at an early date.

While it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any lingering concerns about the allowability of the application, and it would be convenient to deal with such objections or concerns over the telephone, the

Examiner is invited to telephone the applicant's patent attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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